

From: Chad Rytting
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 9:01am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

In regards to the Microsoft settlement, I feel I must disagree with this settlement altogether. I don't think that anything less than a break-up of this company will alleviate the problems that it has created, and begin to restore faith in the market that it can indeed be a competitive arena. In my experience, and through my readings, when Microsoft decides they want to dominate an area, they use business practices that are by definition unfair by setting the prices of their products so low that other companies who cannot rely on sales of other products to make up differences simply can't compete. When this same thing happened with many similar companies, they went through break-ups (Standard Oil, AT&T, etc.). I would politely ask that you consider this solution for Microsoft, or at least that you would make them release the code of their systems to other companies to bid on.

Microsoft uses unfair tactics in their programming, as well. It would seem to me that you would find it of utmost interest if an oil company were to sell gasoline of an extremely low grade to certain stores, while selling the most premium grade gasoline to their own stores. This is how Microsoft programs their system. They document certain things about it, but when it comes to fine tuning an application, they don't give enough information on the internals of the OS to allow those who would write an application to make it run efficiently. This way, when Microsoft decides to attempt to dominate this market, they can write a sleeker, faster, finer tuned application and claim to be the better company for it. When all along, this was their plan.

In summary, I would ask that you consider dividing Microsoft or some other means of making the company compete on a more fair level. If you do not place these type of sanctions on Microsoft, they will continue (as they currently are) their unfair business practices. During this whole case, Microsoft has released numerous new operating systems, office

products, a gaming console, and more. Their latest version of windows (XP) is just another area where Microsoft is using its muscle to overturn more markets (CD writing built into the OS, MS Messenger installed by default, reminds you constantly to sign up for their "passport" program on the web which competes with other programs that do similar things on the Internet).

Thank you for your time,

Chad Rytting

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